

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the most recent Office Action, claims 1-19 were examined. Applicants acknowledge with thanks the allowance of claims 1-15. Claims 16-19 stand rejected.

With this response, claims 16-19 are canceled. No new matter is added. Accordingly, allowed claims 1-15 are pending in the present application.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough search and consideration of the subject matter in the application, and respond to the comments in the Office Action as follows.

Allowed Claims

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-15 in the present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action states that claims 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Erickson (U.S. Patent No. 5,436,557) in view of Needham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,570,034). In particular, the Office Action states that Erickson discloses all of the elements recited in claims 16-19, with the exception of an elongated conductor from a power semiconductor device, which element consists of knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, as evidenced by the disclosure by Needham et al.

Applicants have canceled claims 16-19 from the application without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection of those claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) moot.

Conclusion

Allowed claims 1-15 remain in the application and applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance to that effect. If there are any outstanding issues in the application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned counsel at the number provided below.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 3, 2004:

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Name of applicant, assignee or
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Signature

May 3, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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